

What is claimed is:

1. A method for monitoring the operation of an electronic network, said network comprising a first electronic device and a second electronic device, said method comprising:

5 performing a first measurement of a parameter of said network on a first data path between said first electronic device and said second electronic device;

performing a second measurement of said parameter of said network on said first data path between said first
10 electronic device and said second electronic device;

comparing said first measurement to said second measurement; and

providing an indication in response to the comparison of said first measurement to said second
15 measurement.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said providing an indication comprises providing an indication if said comparison is greater than a preselected value.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said performing a first measurement and performing a second measurement comprises performing a plurality of measurements, and wherein providing an indication comprises providing an
5 indication if a preselected number of said measurements exceed a preselected value.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said performing a first measurement and performing a second measurement comprises performing a plurality of measurements, and wherein said providing an indication comprises providing
5 an indication if a preselected number of said measurements exceed a preselected value during a

preselected period.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said parameter is response time.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said performing a first measurement and performing a second measurement comprises determining a plurality of data paths between said first electronic device and said second electronic device; and wherein said providing an indication comprises providing an indication if the use of at least one of said plurality of data paths changes more than a preselected value.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said performing at a first measurement and performing a second measurement comprises performing a plurality of measurements of a parameter of said network on a first data path between said first electronic device and said second electronic device; and wherein said providing an indication comprises providing an indication if the value of at least one of said plurality of measurements exceeds the value of the average of previous measurements by a preselected amount.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the values of said plurality of measurements that exceed said value of the average of previous measurements plus said preselected value are not used to calculate subsequent average values.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said performing a first measurement and performing a second measurement comprises performing a plurality of measurements of a

parameter of said network on a first data path between
 5 said first electronic device and said second electronic
 device, and wherein said providing an indication
 comprises providing an indication if the value of one of
 said plurality of measurements exceeds the mean of
 previous measurements of said parameter plus three times
 10 the square of said mean of previous measurements.

10. The method of claim 1, and further comprising
 determining a plurality of data paths between said first
 electronic device and said second electronic device; and
 wherein said providing an indication further comprises
 5 providing an indication if the utilization of one of said
 plurality of data paths changes more than a preselected
 value.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said providing
 an indication further comprises providing an indication
 if the utilization of one of said plurality of data paths
 changes more than a preselected value a preselected
 5 number of time within a preselected period.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said performing
 a first measurement and performing a second measurement
 comprises providing a plurality of measurements of a
 parameter of said network on a first data path between
 5 said first electronic device and said second electronic
 device, and wherein said providing an indication
 comprises providing an indication if the values of said
 plurality of measurements exceed a preselected value for
 a preselected period.

13. A monitoring device for monitoring an
 electronic network, said electronic network comprising a

first electronic device and a second electronic device,
said monitoring device comprising:

5 a computer operatively connected to said network;
and

10 a computer-readable medium operatively associated
with said computer, said computer-readable medium
containing instructions for controlling said computer and
said monitoring device by:

performing at least two measurements of a parameter
of said network on a first data path between said first
electronic device and said second electronic device; and

15 providing an indication in response to a comparison
of said at least two measurements of said parameter.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said providing
an indication comprises providing an indication if said
comparison is greater than a preselected value.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said providing
an indication comprises providing an indication if a
preselected number of said measurements exceed a
preselected value.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein said providing
an indication comprises providing an indication if a
preselected number of said measurements exceed a
preselected value during a preselected period.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein said parameter
is response time.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein said performing
at least two measurements comprises determining a
plurality of data paths between said first electronic

device and said second electronic device; and wherein
5 said providing an indication comprises providing an
indication if the use of at least one of said plurality
of data paths changes more than a preselected value.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein said performing
at least two measurements of a parameter comprises
performing a plurality of measurements of a parameter of
said network on a first data path between said first
5 electronic device and said second electronic device; and
wherein said providing an indication comprises providing
an indication if the value of at least one of said
plurality of measurements exceeds the value of the
average of previous measurements by a preselected amount.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the values of
said plurality of measurements that exceed said value of
the average of previous measurements plus said
preselected value are not used to calculate subsequent
5 average values.

21. The method of claim 13, wherein said performing
a measurement comprises performing a plurality of
measurements of a parameter of said network on a first
data path between said first electronic device and said
5 second electronic device, and wherein said providing an
indication comprises providing an indication if the value
of one of said plurality of measurements exceeds the mean
of previous measurements of said parameter plus three
times the square of said mean of previous measurements.

22. The method of claim 13, and further comprising
determining a plurality of data paths between said first
electronic device and said second electronic device; and

wherein said providing an indication further comprises
5 providing an indication if the utilization of one of said
plurality of data paths changes more than a preselected
value.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said providing
an indication further comprises providing an indication
if the utilization of one of said plurality of data paths
changes more than a preselected value a preselected
5 number of time within a preselected period.

24. The method of claim 13, wherein said performing
at least two measurements comprises providing a plurality
of measurements of a parameter of said network on a first
data path between said first electronic device and said
5 second electronic device, and wherein said providing an
indication comprises providing an indication if the
values of said plurality of measurements exceed a
preselected value for a preselected period.

25. A method for monitoring the operation of an
electronic network, said network comprising a first
electronic device and a second electronic device, said
method comprising:

5 measure a first response time of data transfers
between said first electronic device and said second
electronic device;

measuring a second response time of data transfers
between said first electronic device and said second
10 electronic device;

comparing said first response time to said second
response time; and

providing an indication if said second response time
exceeds said first response time by a time greater than a

15 preselected time

26. A monitoring device for monitoring an
electronic network, said network comprising a first
electronic device, a second electronic device, and at
least one data path extending therebetween, said

5 monitoring device comprising:

 means for repeatedly measuring a parameter of said
network between said first electronic device and said
second electronic device and generating measurement data
indicative of said measuring;

10 means for receiving and comparing said measurement
data to a preselected value; and

 means for providing a notification in response to
the comparison.

09915070-072504